PRESIDENT: In order that the position may be clarified, the policy of the Government may be indicated. Henceforth all the mineral sands in Travancore shall be regarded as the property of the Government and no concern or venture will have any proprietary rights in any of the sands in Travancore. The question of the utilisation of those sands either by using them in a manufactory here or by exporting them to countries which need exportation for particular purposes is a matter which is under discussion with the representatives of those concerns which were till now conducting business in those lines.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR (*Karunagapally cum Kartikapalli*): Will this House be consulted before a final decision is taken?

PRESIDENT: If it is considered necessary. Yes.

Age of retirement of the officers.

530. * **MR. P. O. THOMAS**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was any correspondence of late between this Government and the Government of India as to age of retirement of the officers of this State; and

(*b*) if so what the gist of that correspondence is?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Construction of the Quilon-Ernakulam Railway line.

531. * **MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH** (*Minachil cum Thodupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state why the construction of the Quilon-Ernakulam Railway line which was surveyed at a cost of about Rs. 1¾ crores has not been taken up?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: The proposal for the construction of the Quilon-Ernakulam Railway was given up on account of the technical difficulties in the construction and the heavy cost involved which was found to be disproportionate to the utility of a metre-gauge railway from Quilon to Ernakulam. The attention of the member is invited to the fact that the cost of the survey was only Rs. 1·46 lakhs and not Rs. 1¾ crores as stated in the question. The attention of the member is also invited to the Dewan's statement of Government policy regarding the construction of Railways, made in the last Budget Session of the Assembly.

Document Writers' Licences.

532. * **MR. P. O. THOMAS**: Will the Government be pleased to place on the table:

(*a*) the copy of the rules relating to the document writers' licences;

(*b*) the copy of the letter addressed by the Government to the Bar Council about that matter; and

(*c*) the copy of the letter sent by the Bar Council to the Government about that matter?

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